

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office, Applicants have canceled Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 9 have been amended as presented herewith to patentably distinguish over the prior art of record in this application. Reconsideration for allowance of independent Claims 1 and 8 and the claims depending therefrom, respectively, is requested for the reasons set forth herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a plurality of interconnected panels for a sectional door in a mobile cargo body wherein the panels are interconnected by spaced apart hinges projecting from an inner surface of the panels respectively, and at least selected ones of the panels include an elongated reinforcing member mounted on the inner surfaces of the panels by spaced apart mechanical fasteners, the reinforcing members having spaced apart coplanar flanges and a continuous arcuate web interposed the flanges and wherein the overall width of the reinforcing members is about 1.6 to 2.0 times the radius of curvature of the web and the height of the reinforcing members with respect to the inner surfaces of the panels is approximately equal to the height of the hinges with respect to the inner surfaces of the panels. Claim 8 has been amended to include, essentially, recitation along the lines of the amendments to Claim 1. The amendments to Claims 1 and 8 are believed to distinguish these claims over the prior art.

An important aspect of providing a reinforcing member with spaced apart flanges interconnected by an arcuate web and wherein the width of the reinforcing member between the outer

edges of the flanges is about 1.6 to 2.0 times the radius of curvature of the web provides a reinforcing member which contributes substantial reinforcement to sectional door panels while maintaining an overall height equal to about the height of hinges also mounted on the inner surfaces of the door panels for interconnecting the panels. In this way, sectional doors in mobile cargo bodies, such as motor trucks, are not inadvertently jammed in a closed position by shifting cargo within the cargo body. Amended Claims 1 and 8 address this issue with the amendatory recitation regarding the height of the reinforcing members with respect to the height of hinges which are also secured to the inner surfaces of the sectional door panels.

With regard to Claim 1, this claims has also been amended to include the recitation of canceled Claims 3 and 4. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,161,606 to Wegner et al. The Examiner states that the distance between the flanges (apparently flange sections 40e and 40f) is two times the radius of curvature of the semicircle portion (apparently the so-called rear section 40d). However, Wegner et al. does not disclose this relationship. Wegner et al. does disclose that the parallel "upper and lower" leg sections 40a have a dimensional relationship with respect to the curved rear section (40d) but there is no relationship stated regarding the distance between the outer edges of the flanges of the strut (40) of Wegner et al. and the radius of curvature of the rear section (40d). However, with regard to Applicants' reinforcing member

as set forth in Claim 1, this relationship provides superior strength of the reinforcing member and also provides for a relationship wherein the reinforcing member has a height approximately equal to the height of the hinges with respect to the inner surfaces of the panels. In this way, the reinforcing members also function to block or prevent shifting cargo from engaging the hinges and blocking the door from being moved to an open position. Accordingly, the overall combination of features as set forth in Claim 1 of a reinforcing member for plural interconnected panels of a sectional door in a mobile cargo body is believed to be superior and is not anticipated by the disclosure of Wegner et al. or the other art of record. Reconsideration for allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected Claims 1 and 3 through 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the teaching of Wegner et al. in view of U.S. Patent 3,844,539 to Abbott or 1,853,141 to Overholtz. Abbott discloses a hockey rink wall structure for surrounding the skating surface which includes horizontal ribs (36) which extend between mounting brackets and along the backsides of boards (10) defining the rink wall. The position of the reinforcing ribs (36) is approximately the same height from the rink ice surface as an average hockey player's knees.

With regard to the teaching of Overholtz, this patent discloses a panel for an outdoor advertising display sign having a rectangular frame with transverse bars (14) which each have a

somewhat arcuate convex curved portion (15) between faces (16) and function as backup plates for the poster portions of the advertising display panels. Neither Abbott nor Overholtz appreciate the problems associated with sectional doors in mobile cargo bodies and there is no suggestion in the references taken alone, or combined, or one modified in view of the other to provide a sectional door in a mobile cargo body having reinforcing members with the features set forth in Claim 1 as amended herein. Accordingly, reconsideration for allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5 remain in the application dependent on Claim 1 and are believed to be patentable at least for the reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of amended Claim 1. Reconsideration for allowance of Claims 2 and 5 is therefore also respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been amended generally along the lines of Claim 1. Claim 8 also includes recitation regarding a rib extending from the arcuate web portion of the reinforcing member toward the inner surface of the panel on which the reinforcing member is mounted. The overall combination of features set forth in amended Claim 8 is believed to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2 and 6 through 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wegner et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,062,293 to Berger, Jr. The Examiner also rejected the same claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wegner et al. in view of

either Abbott or Overholtz and further in view of Berger, Jr. As pointed out hereinabove, none of the references, including Berger, Jr., are directed to a reinforcing member for a sectional door in a mobile cargo body. Berger, Jr. discloses reinforcing members which fit within the channel-shaped upper and lower edges of a sectional door panel. However, Berger, Jr. does not suggest, taken in combination with Wegner et al., or Wegner et al. and Abbott, or Wegner et al. and Overholtz, a reinforcing member for a sectional door in a mobile cargo body having the relationship regarding the distance between outer edges of opposed mounting flanges and the radius of curvature of an intermediate arcuate web, nor the height relationship of the reinforcing member with respect to hinges which interconnect the panels on which the reinforcing members are mounted, nor the provision of a rib extending from an arcuate web portion toward the surface of the panel, all as required by Claim 8. Accordingly, reconsideration for allowance of this claim is also requested.

Claim 9 refers back to and further restricts Claim 8 and requires that alternate ones of the panels of the door include one of the reinforcing members secured to the inner surface thereof. Reconsideration for allowance of Claim 9 is requested for the reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of Claim 8.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by canceling claims, by amending claims, as now presented, and by pointing out with particularity

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herein how the claims distinguish patentably over the prior art.
Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance of Claims 1, 2, 5, 8
and 9 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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